WAN): (a) Number of agricultural labour in the country was 64,409,452 excluding Assam, according to the 1981 Census.

(b) According to Rural Labour Enquiry Report 1974-75, wage employment is available on the average for 193 days to the male workers and for 138 days to female workers in agricultural labour households.

(c) and (d) Various schemes under anti poverty programme such as IRDP and Jawahar Rozgar Yojna are aimed at giving self-employment and wage employment to the poorest sections of the community which includes the bulk of agricultural labour.

Formulation of Agriculture Policy

546. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new agriculture policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) and (b) As part of the new agriculture policy the Government have initiated action on evolving a series of measures to ensure better deal for the farmers by way of remunerative prices, strategy for generation of export surpluses and study of the feasibility of treating agriculture as industry, refinements in the comprehensive crop insurance scheme, providing adequate credit and improving marketing infrastructure by way of setting up of rural godowns and securing about 50 per cent of the Plan outlays for agriculture and rural areas.

Prices of turmeric

547. DR YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a slump in the market of turmeric and the prices are going down; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Use of banned pesticides

548. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the pesticides banned by W.H.O that are available in India as on date and the reasons for allowing the same to be used in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): W.H.O. have not banned any pesticides nor does it recommend banning or restricting any pesticide product.

Cases registered under bonded labour Act

549. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered under provisions of the Bonded Labour Act, since the Act came into existence, State-wise; and

(b) what steps have been taken to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) A statement containing the information relating to the number of cases registered under Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, State-wise is enclosed. (*See* below).

(b) States have been advised to enforce the provisions of the Act